

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 726

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the ministers and congregation of Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church upon its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, the churches of our nation have been an integral part of our history as a people and have had an unparalleled impact in forming and maintaining a stable and just society; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; one such dynamic and historic community of faith is Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church, the members of which are celebrating the church's 100th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church was formed in 1909 by a group of faithful members of the Sengtown Community of Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, following an organizational service on December 3, 1909, a baptizing service was held in a branch of the river that flowed through the Duffer and Hodges farms; and

WHEREAS, received as a member of the Mt. Union Association in September 1910, Martin's Chapel hosted the association for the first time in September 1928, at which time the congregation had an enrollment of 151; and

WHEREAS, since its humble beginnings, the church leaders and congregation at Martin's Chapel General Baptist have been forward thinking, expanding the size of the church's buildings over the decades to keep up with the growth of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, by the 1950s and 60s, Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church had established a new standard for Baptist churches in Sumner County; the church saw numerous

conversions, many physical improvements, and the birth of the Vacation Bible School program during those decades; and

WHEREAS, the congregation moved into a new church building in 1970 and finished a new fellowship hall in 1984; the 1990s saw the birth of many new activities for this thriving congregation, such as Friends and Family Day and the Annual Outdoor Singings; and

WHEREAS, continuing its Christian endeavors into the new century, Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church has embarked upon many outreach efforts, such as mission trips to Jamaica and sending aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina and of tornadoes in Gallatin, Macon, and Allen Counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, with attendance growing, the congregation again built a new fellowship hall; and

WHEREAS, utilizing congregational input, expectant prayer, and acts of faith throughout their history, the devout members of Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church have faithfully striven to carry out God's work in the world; and

WHEREAS, as a powerful tool in the service of the Kingdom of God, Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and Nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Sumner County, Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Martin's Chapel General Baptist Church, thank the good people of this historic congregation and their ministers for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.